

\$14.6 million contract awarded for the Delta Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie project

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jim Costa today announced that the Bureau of Reclamation has awarded a \$14.6 million contract for construction of the Intertie project that will link the Delta Mendota Canal to the California Aqueduct. The project will deliver water to San Joaquin Valley farmers who are in the most need of assistance during the water supply crisis. The funds are made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and are expected to provide the required funding to complete the project.

“After working to secure funding, I am pleased that the Intertie is one step closer to delivering additional water to our Valley,” said Costa. “This project has been stuck in a bureaucratic backlog for six years. Fighting through this delay is a victory for our entire region.”

“Water is the lynchpin of our local economy, from employment in rural farming communities to jobs in urban areas,” added Costa. “The Intertie will bring more water to farmers and will have a ripple effect throughout our economy. Our efforts to bring more water to the Valley this year continue to produce results and I look forward to breaking ground on this vital project.”

Today’s announcement sets the stage for construction to begin on the Intertie. When completed, the project will connect the Delta-Mendota Canal to the California Aqueduct with a new pipeline and pumping station. The project will provide much needed flexibility in managing the water system and allow water to move to farmers who have been hardest hit by the crisis. According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Intertie is scheduled to be online to deliver water in fall of 2011.

Congressman Costa has long fought for the Intertie project and was successful last year in passing legislation (click [here](#)) to help fund and support it.

In July 2009, Congressman Costa introduced two legislative amendments to alleviate the effects of the water supply crisis. One amendment cut through bureaucratic red tape by making it easier for water to be transferred from one county to another. The second amendment increased funding for the California Bay-Delta Restoration Program, providing a \$10 million down payment on water projects including the Intertie.

Both amendments passed Congress in October as part of a conference report for the FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. Since then, Costa demanded (click [here](#)) that the Interior Department make the Intertie project a top priority.